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# CIA Funds Are Linked To World Charity Group

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World University Service, a charitable organization working with students, faculty members and university administrators throughout the world, has received covert financial support from the Central Intelligence Agency.

In addition, WUS has maintained continuing liaison with the CIA through its practice of placing in many of its top staff positions individuals who worked directly with the intelligence agency in earlier jobs.

The current U.S. executive director of WUS is John Simons, whose association with student organizations goes back to at least 1947, when he was a member of a 25-man U.S. delegation to a meeting of the International Union of Students in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

It was the resentment against Communist domination of that meeting and subsequent IUS functions that led directly to the formation of both the National Student Association and the International Student Conference.

## A NSA Founder

Simons remained active in the student area and was a founder of both NSA and the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

In the late 1940s, he worked as assistant executive director of the international WUS organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

From 1951 to 1961, he was executive director of the Foundation for Youth and Student

'64 Death Probed for Link to Kennedy Case. Page A-9

Affairs, of New York; the organization identified earlier as the principal conduit for millions of dollars in CIA funds distributed annually to youth and student groups throughout the world.

He then served as director of college recruitment for the Peace Corps, an organization that from its inception insisted that the CIA make no effort to influence its policies or enlist field volunteers for intelligence work.

## Joined WUS in 1965

In 1965, Simons took his present post with WUS. One member of that organization recalled yesterday that Simons' "long experience with student organizations and his ability to solicit international support for student activities" were among the principal reasons offered for his selection.

Acting on a suggestion from the international affairs vice president of NSA, who at the time was working directly with the CIA, Simons designated a U.S. WUS representative to work in Saigon.

The individual involved was supposed to be studying the influence of the French legal system on the South Vietnamese government, but also was to act as liaison with that country's WUS committee.

WUS staff members objected to the decision, but Simons said additional information was

custody early next week. Because Ferrie had expressed directly from the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs, identified earlier by NSA as a CIA conduit.

Sharing the cost with WUS committees in individual countries throughout the world, WUS engages in a variety of charitable projects in a number of non-aligned nations. Local sponsors usually include students, professors and university administrators.

The organization reports an annual expenditure of about \$500,000, but this does not include administration costs or matching funds supplied by recipient nations. Its total annual outlay is estimated at about \$2 million.

Simons has denied any relationship with the CIA. In a prepared statement, he said WUS "never served as a conduit for the CIA nor will it."

Asked about the foundation, he said that "at no time did I have any knowledge" that it served as a CIA conduit.